

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT The Kirov Shipyard in Astrakhan

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SOURCE

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1. The Kirov Shipyard, located on the banks of the Balda, a branch of the Volga River, about five kilometers from the center of Astrakhan and three kilometers downstream from the new Astrakhan power plant, is named after a Soviet patriotic hero. It is not, however, to be confused with the larger and newer shipyard on the main tributary of the Volga River, just south of Astrakhan, All of this area is part of the expanding Volga delta. 25X1

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2.

In April 1949, a top priority construction project to connect the main railroad line with the shipyard was rushed to completion.

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3. The management of the Kirov yard is in the hands of a civilian director. Despite the fact that Soviet naval officers sometimes visited the yard as members of investigating commissions, source did not receive the impression that this enterprise was under military control, especially since production was limited entirely to the manufacture and repair of civilian shipping units.

4. The most important installations of the Kirov yard are

- The slipways
- The foundry
- The mechanical workshops
- The forge and welding plant
- The main building for ship construction and assembling
- The joiner's shop
- The saw mill
- The administration building

5. The Kirov Shipyard, estimated by source to cover a 1200 x 500 meter area, runs

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parallel to the Balda River for more than 100 meters. The yard's technical equipment was recognized by source to be more or less modern and still efficient. According to the opinion of German specialists, the slipways, the workshops, and the foundry are well managed. Many of the machines and automats (Automaten) in use at that time were acquired from German war-booty stocks.

6. The slipways, located in the northwestern part of the yard and extending down the river front, are equipped with rails, rollers, chains, and rope sheaves. Engines pull the boats from the river.
7. The foundry, also situated in this same general area, directly behind the slipway engine house, is installed in a spacious 80 x 40 meter crane-equipped building. It has two furnaces: one for steel castings, and one for miscellaneous castings. A small pattern shop is attached to the foundry, northwest of the casting hall.
8. The mechanical workshops, modern and efficient, are located east of, and across the street from, the foundry at the corner of the main street of the shipyard and the street that parallels the slipways. The shops, which include the locksmith, the stamping works, the dressing shop, and the glass bending shop, are accommodated in a 60 x 12 meter building.
9. The main ship construction hall occupies the center of the yard, covering an area of 100 x 40 meters. The welding of hulls, repairs, new construction, and assembling is carried out here.

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10. Production at the Kirov Shipyard, [redacted] is devoted almost entirely to the construction of new 300-to 400-ton diesel launches and 150-to 200-ton tug boats. Although repair of these two types is a secondary activity, the shipyard's foundry pours cylinders, shafts, anchors, toothwheels, flywheels, and propellers, which are then installed. The largest launch or tug boat repaired at this yard weighed approximately 1500 tons. Engines for these boats are received from downstream through the Redankin firm.
11. Power for the yard was supplied by a small city power plant until 1947. Today, however, the current is derived from a large new power plant which is located about three kilometers upstream from the shipyard.
12. The personnel of the organization totaled approximately 1200 persons. Of this total, the foundry employed 150 civilians and 50 [redacted] Most of the workshops were geared to one shift a day, but the main ship hall ran night and day. The yard guard was composed almost exclusively of women, armed with carbines.

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Encl: Attachment I (The Kirov Shipyard in Astrakhan)
Attachment II (Astrakhan and Vicinity)

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